

Appl. No. Not Assigned
Filed July 3, 2003
Preliminary Amendment

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (original): A method of repairing a damaged cable line in which damaged cable extends through a first end plate on one side of a first splice case to an undamaged cable extending through a second end plate on the opposite side of the splice case, in which a plurality of individual wires of the damaged cable are spliced to a plurality of individual wires of the undamaged cable in the splice case, comprising;

opening the first splice case to expose the spliced wires;

bringing the end of a replacement cable through a temporary, third end plate larger than said first end plate and which is formed with sufficient openings to separately encase the damaged cable, the undamaged cable, and a replacement cable;

placing an expansion ring on said second end plate, said expansion ring having a diameter substantially the same as the diameter of the third end plate and formed with an aperture therethrough adapted to receive the second end plate in an environmentally sealing and air tight relationship;

disconnecting some, but not all, of the spliced wires of the damaged cable;

placing the damaged cable, undamaged cable partially connected to the damaged cable, and replacement cable partially connected to the undamaged cable in a second splice case of a size larger than the first splice case to form with the third end plate and expansion ring, and environmentally sealing and air tight relationship;

thereafter, opening the second splice case, finishing splicing remaining wires to completely remove the damaged cable and completely connect the replacement cable to the undamaged cable, then replacing the third end plate with a same size substitute for the first end plate, removing the expansion ring, and placing the undamaged cable connected to the replacement in the first splice case, or in a substitute therefor, in an environmentally sealing and air tight relationship.